



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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Big Rivers Electric Energy Transmission and Substation Earns Governor's Safety and Health Award

Employees work more than 250,000 hours without a lost-time incident

HENDERSON, Ky. (April 9, 2014) – Secretary Larry L. Roberts of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet joined employees and officials in Henderson today to honor Big Rivers' Electric Energy Transmission and Substation (ET&S) employees with the Governor's Safety and Health Award. The honor recognizes the facility for working 250,000 hours without a lost-time accident or illness.

"Big Rivers is no stranger to these awards, with 33 previous Governor's Safety and Health Awards throughout the years," said Secretary Roberts. "We congratulate the Energy Transmission and Substation organization in Henderson, and we appreciate its enduring dedication to the safety and health of the people who work there."

Incorporated in 1961, Big Rivers is a member-owned, not-for-profit, generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Henderson. Big Rivers owns, operates and maintains a 1,285-mile transmission system, three generating plants and 22 substations.

Big Rivers is owned by three distribution cooperative members: Jackson Purchase Energy Corp., headquartered in Paducah; Kenenergy Corp., headquartered in Henderson; and Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., headquartered in Brandenburg.

These member cooperatives deliver retail electric power and energy to more than 113,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in portions of 22 western Kentucky counties.

“It is always an honor for Big Rivers’ employees to receive a Kentucky Governor’s Safety and Health Award,” said Mark Bailey, Big Rivers Electric president and CEO. “This distinguished award is a tribute to our Energy Transmission and Substation (ET&S) employees working more than four years to reach over 250,000 hours without a lost-time incident. I know this accomplishment could not have been reached without each transmission and substation employee doing his or her part, as well as the local union leadership’s support to maintain a safe and healthy working environment. As an organization, we emphasize safety among our employees, member-owners, contractors and the general public, so today’s award is a testimony to our organization’s cooperative spirit in creating a safe workplace.”

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1701 represents Big Rivers’ ET&S employees. The national IBEW union traces its roots to the late 1800s, and is the oldest and largest electrical union in the world.

This latest honor is the 34th Governor’s Safety and Health Award for the entire Big Rivers company, which employs nearly 600 people overall. The ET&S facility has nearly 40 employees, and has not had a lost-time incident since January 2010.

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor’s Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees.

The Governor’s Safety and Health Award program is part of Gov. Steve Beshear’s efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. The Governor launched [kyhealthnow](#) in February as an aggressive and wide-ranging initiative to significantly reduce incidents and deaths from Kentucky’s dismal health rankings and habits. It builds on Kentucky’s successful implementation of health care reform and uses multiple strategies over the next several years to improve the state’s collective health.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible, even if the establishment won the award the previous year. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time.

The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque. The certificate contains the signatures of Kentucky Gov. Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Department of Workplace Standards Commissioner Anthony Russell.

For more on the Governor’s Safety and Health Award, and for a list of past winners, click [here](#).

For more on Big Rivers, visit www.bigrivers.com.

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The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov/.

